

Listing of the Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A container comprising:

a neck section with a finish;

a relatively smooth tapering shoulder section extending outwardly from a base of the neck section;

a body section having four substantially vertical sides each separated by a vertical post that runs the length of an adjacent vertical side, said four substantially vertical sides including two opposing, relatively smooth vertical sides and two opposing vertical sides with two a vacuum panel panels formed on each opposing vertical side thereon[[,]] where a radius of a cross-sectional curve through the relatively smooth vertical sides is smaller than the radius of a cross-sectional curve through an opposing vertical side with a vacuum panel ~~one vacuum panel on top of the other vacuum panel and separated by a substantially horizontal bridge~~, said shoulder section being disposed between the neck section and said body section; and

a bottom section adjacent said body section, said bottom section having a standing ring surrounding a recessed area on a bottom surface of said bottom section and relatively smooth walls inclining upwardly from the standing ring toward said body section.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The container according to Claim 2 ~~1~~, wherein the vacuum panels are provided with a surface etching.

Claim 4 (Original): The container according to Claim 1, wherein the vertical post running the length of an adjacent vertical side has a number of spaced recessed areas.

Claim 5 (Original): The container according to Claim 1, wherein the vertical post running the length of an adjacent vertical side is recessed between the adjacent vertical sides.

Claim 6 (Original): The container according to Claim 1, further comprising a circumscribing groove between said shoulder section and said body section.

Claim 7 (Original): The container according to Claim 1, further comprising a circumscribing groove between said bottom section and said body section.

Claim 8 (Original): The container according to Claim 1, wherein the container is made from a thermoplastic material.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The container according to Claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein said body section has a longitudinal axis and each of the two opposing, relatively smooth vertical sides are curved outwards from one vertical post to a mid-section of an adjacent the respective relatively smooth vertical side adjacent the one vertical post where the mid-section is parallel to the longitudinal axis.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The container according to Claim 2 1, wherein said body section has a longitudinal axis and each of the two opposing, relatively smooth vertical sides are curved outwards from one vertical post to a mid-section of ~~an adjacent~~ the respective relatively smooth vertical side adjacent the one vertical post where the mid-section is parallel to the longitudinal axis and the two opposing vertical sides with a vacuum panel are curved outwardly slightly compared to the curve of the two opposing, relatively smooth vertical sides.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A container for providing smooth surfaces adapted to receive labels in a variety of ways, said container comprising:

a neck section with a finish;

a bell portion curving outwardly and downwardly from the neck section to an upper circumscribing area;

a body section formed of four separate side panels each separated by a vertical post that runs the length of an adjacent vertical side, said four side panels including two opposing, relatively smooth vertical sides and two opposing vertical sides with ~~two a~~ a vacuum panel panels formed on each opposing vertical side thereon ~~[[,]] one vacuum panel on top of the other vacuum panel and separated by substantially horizontal ribbed bridge~~ where a radius of a cross-sectional curve through the relatively smooth vertical sides is smaller than the radius of a cross-sectional curve through an opposing side with a vacuum panel and the two relatively smooth, opposing ~~side panels~~ sides are adapted to receive a label, said body ~~portion~~ section extending from the upper circumscribing area to

a lower circumscribing area; and

a bottom section adjacent said lower circumscribing area and having a standing ring and a recessed area on a bottom surface of the bottom section.

Claim 12 (Original): The container according to Claim 11, wherein the upper and lower circumscribing areas are grooves.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The container according to Claim 11, wherein said bottom ~~portion~~ section has relatively smooth walls inclining upwardly from the standing ring toward said body section.

14 (Currently Amended): The container according to Claim 11, wherein ~~adjacent sides of the four separate sides are separated by a vertical post and wherein~~ the two vacuum panels are provided with a surface etching.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The container according to Claim ~~14~~ 11, wherein each vertical post ~~runs the length of an adjacent vertical side and~~ is recessed between adjacent sides of said body section.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The container according to Claim ~~14~~ 11, wherein said body section has a longitudinal axis and each of the two opposing, relatively smooth, substantially vertical sides ~~side panels~~ are curved outwards from one vertical post to a mid-section of ~~an adjacent~~ the respective relatively smooth, substantially vertical side

adjacent the one vertical post where the mid-section is parallel to the longitudinal axis.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The container according to Claim 16, wherein each of the two opposing vertical sides with a vacuum panel are curved outwardly slightly compared to the curve of the two opposing, relatively smooth vertical sides.

Claim 18 (Original): The container according to Claim 11, wherein the container withstands the pressures associated with at least one of a hot-filled, retort and pasteurization process.

19. (New): The container according to Claim 1, wherein an opposing vertical side with a vacuum panel has two vacuum panels formed thereon where one vacuum panel is disposed on top of the other vacuum panel and the vacuum panels are separated by a substantially horizontal bridge.

20. (New): The container according to Claim 11, wherein an opposing vertical side with a vacuum panel has two vacuum panels formed thereon where one vacuum panel is disposed on top of the other vacuum panel and the vacuum panels are separated by a substantially horizontal bridge.

Amendments to the Drawings:

Figure 1 is amended to show a mid-section **8m** on a relatively smooth, vertical side **8b**;

Figure 3 is amended to show cross-sectional line VI-VI through body section **8**; and

Figure 6 is added to show the respective curvatures of relatively flat vertical sides **8a** and the more pronounced curve of the vertical sides **8b**, the recessed vertical posts **12** and mid-section **8m** of body section **8**. Figure 6 additionally identifies R1 and R2.

Replacement Sheets:

Figure 1;

Figures 3-5; and

New Drawing Sheet:

Figure 6